Members

Sen. David Ford, Chairperson
Sen. Murray Clark
Sen. Greg Server
Sen. Lindel Hume
Sen. Sam Smith
 Sen. Richard Young
Rep. Terry Austin
Rep. Matt Pierce, Vice-Chairperson
Rep. Ryan Dvorak
Rep. Steven Heim
Rep. Eric Koch
Rep. Jack Lutz

LSA Staff:

Sarah Freeman, Attorney for the Committee
Valerie Ruda, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

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INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

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MEETING MINUTES[1]

Meeting Date:	**September 15, 2004**
Meeting Time:	**1:00 P.M.**
Meeting Place:	**Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, Informatics Complex**
Meeting City:	**Indianapolis, Indiana**
Meeting Number:	**3**

Members Present: Sen. David Ford, Chairperson; Sen. Greg Server; Rep. Terry Austin; Rep. Matt Pierce, Vice-Chairperson; Rep. Ryan Dvorak; Rep. Steven Heim; Rep. Eric Koch; Rep. Jack Lutz.

Members Absent: Sen. Murray Clark; Sen. Lindel Hume; Sen. Sam Smith; Sen. Richard Young.

I. Call to Order and Introduction of Members

Senator Ford called the third meeting of the Interim Study Committee on Technology Issues to order at 1:11 p.m. He introduced the committee members in attendance and reviewed the three main topics of the Committee's study: (1) Geographic Information System (GIS) funding; (2) broadband technology; and (3) the effect of technology on Indiana's Open Door and Public Meeting laws.

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[1] Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of $0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is http://www.ai.org/legislative/. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Dean William Plater, chief academic officer of Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis (IUPUI), welcomed the Committee to IUPUI's campus and Informatics Complex.

II. Open Door and Public Meeting Issues

David Bottorff, legislative director of the Indiana Association of Counties, introduced the first three speakers: (1) Terri Rethlake, St. Joseph County Recorder; (2) Judy Sharp, Monroe County Assessor; and (3) Diana Cleland, Hamilton County Web Administrator.

Ms. Rethlake testified about the need to protect personal information that is recorded in a public office. See Exhibit 1. Senator Ford questioned why a county recorder keeps federal military records, including service members' Social Security numbers. Ms. Rethlake answered that the Social Security numbers are necessary to obtain Veterans Affairs benefits. Steve Key of the Hoosier State Press Association (HSPA) explained that, after a fire at the federal building in St. Louis destroyed military records, a local backup record is kept in each county recorder's office. Representative Dvorak asked if the military records are available on the Internet. Ms. Rethlake answered that the records are accessible on the Internet to users who pay a monthly or per document fee, part of which is deposited in the county remote access fund and part of which goes to the software company that manages the website.

Ms. Sharp and Randy Smith, Monroe County GIS coordinator, demonstrated Monroe County's integrated GIS website, in53.plexisgroup.com. See Exhibit 2. Ms. Sharp testified that the GIS website was essential to the county finishing its property reassessment on time. Because the GIS website includes photographs of all Monroe County structures, the assessor only had to visit three structures in over 1,000 appeals. The availability of reassessment information on the Internet has reduced the number of visits and phone calls to the assessor's office. In response to a question by Representative Austin, Ms. Sharp testified that Monroe County has a technology board that has conducted monthly public meetings since 1992.

Ms. Cleland testified that she is trying to implement a digital newsletter service for Hamilton County residents and is unsure whether email addresses collected for the service would become public records. Ms. Cleland stated that she has been advised to release the email addresses to avoid violating Indiana law. Ms. Cleland provided the Committee with her correspondence with Indiana's Public Access Counselor and copies of other states' laws dealing with the issue. See Exhibits 3-5.

Next, Marian Pearcy, President of the Indiana Coalition for Open Government (ICOG) testified in support of legislation that would (1) limit the use of telephone or other electronic means to circumvent public meetings; (2) require physical attendance of members at public meetings; and (3) make public all email generated in furtherance of public business. See Exhibits 6 and 7.

Ms. Pearcy introduced Cindi Mattingly, Clerk-Treasurer of New Middletown, who gave anecdotal evidence of local government officers using email to avoid holding public meetings. See Exhibit 8.

Finally, Glenna Shelby, on behalf of Linda Compton of the Indiana Broadcasters' Association, spoke in support of the three legislative proposals submitted to the Committee at the August 18 meeting by Steve Key of HSPA. See August 18 Minutes, Exhibits E, F, and G.

III. GIS

Alex Wernher, Deputy Director of the Allen County Department of Planning Services and President of the Indiana Geographic Information Council (IGIC), spoke to the committee about IGIC, Indiana's official statewide GIS coordinating body. Mr. Wernher testified about how GIS technology can improve the quality of life in Indiana. See Exhibits 9 and 10.

Mr. Wernher introduced John Buechler, manager of cadastre with the Advanced Information Technologies department of the Polis Center at IUPUI. Mr. Buechler discussed some specific uses of GIS technology, including a risk assessment report prepared for Wells County. See Exhibit 11.

David Coats, also of the Polis Center, spoke to the Committee about "Indiana Map", a project which would allow Indiana data to be integrated into a national GIS map project. See Exhibit 12.

IV. INSPIRE, The Indiana Virtual Library

Margaret Mohundro, of the Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority and the Indiana Library Federation, presented information about INSPIRE, the Indiana Virtual Library. INSPIRE makes 26 databases containing more than 10,000 magazines, journals, newspapers, and other materials available to Indiana residents on the Internet. See Exhibits 13-14. Representative Austin inquired as to how INSPIRE protects children from accessing inappropriate content. Ms. Mohundro responded that children use a separate interface called "INSPIRE Kids" to access the databases.

V. Other Business

Steve Key of the HSPA advocated legislation that would protect personal information but still allow public agencies to use the final four digits of an individual's Social Security number as an identifying factor. Mr. Key cited a study by Ball State University that calculated only one in 29.9 million people have both the same last name and the same final four digits of a Social Security number. The odds are reduced to one in 8.8 billion when a third variable of birth date is added.

Senator Ford informed the Committee that his request for a fourth meeting had been denied. The Committee did not present any resolutions for a vote. The Committee authorized Sarah Freeman, staff attorney, to prepare the minutes of the third meeting and then to consolidate the minutes of the three Committee meetings as the Committee's final report.

VI. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Senator Server and a second by Representative Lutz, Senator Ford adjourned the third and final meeting of the Interim Study Committee on Technology Issues at 3:22 p.m.